SECRET

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11 April 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE RECORD

SUBJECT:

Meeting with OSO, Re: Current Situation in Albania

- l. At the suggestion of and undersigned contacted the OSO Albanian desk on this date, to ascertain what information was currently available to OSO on Albania, and to learn their evaluation on the current situation which has been so prominently displayed in the American press during the past three weeks.
- 2. On March 19, when the present situation first was brought to the attention of the American newspaper readers, A record of this discussion discussed the same subject with is in our files. The discussion on this date closely parallels our earlier talks, as OSO continues to feel that the reports currently circulating about the extent of the uprising against the Hoxha Government have been grossly exaggerated. (was not able to add any new information that had not been already transmitted to this office. (During the (has maintained very close contact with us regarding any past month, new developments on the situation). In fact, he completely discounted a recent press report that the bomb episode was the result of a wide-scale plot to overthrow the government. In addition, he completely discounted the report that 10 or more Migs had been seen at the Tirana airport. To confirm his opinion, he pointed out for example that the French Military Attache to Belgrade had recently traveled about the Albanian countryside during one of their periodic trips to Albania and had observed no unusual activities.
- 3. explained that his office still maintains some W/T contact with agents in Albania, that they are not actually exploiting this source of intelligence as they feel their customers of intelligence rate Albanian developments on a high enough priority to justify increased activities on the part of their field personnel who have suffered considerable losses over a period of time. Stated that, of course, this situation would change if it was agreed to attempt to overthrow the Hoxha Government and our needs for operational information became acute.
- 4. As another indication of the general lack of up-to-date information in OSO's hands, was unable to give us a definite statement regarding Yugoslavia's activities along the Albanian-Yugoslavian border area. The have a project under way to obtain up-to-date information on this situation but apparantly it is still far from amoducing results.